

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO :  
Via :  
FROM :

DATE: 28 February 1952

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Interview with.

1. On Tuesday, 26 February 1952, the writer had an extended interview with [REDACTED] at his office in the [REDACTED]. The interview, exclusive of some research in and examination of [REDACTED] library and files, lasted from approximately 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The interview was laid on through the Contact Branch but introductions as in the [REDACTED] interview were regarded as unnecessary. No difficulties were encountered in this matter.

2. [REDACTED] is a well-known [REDACTED] toxicologist.

3. [REDACTED] is extremely active, moves and talks rapidly, appears highly intelligent, and throughout the long interview was courteous, amiable, and extremely co-operative. After establishing in the writer's mind that [REDACTED] was competent and thoroughly understood the meaning of secrecy, the writer opened up and discussed positive matters. Set out below are a series of questions and answers which cover, in substance, the details of the interview with [REDACTED].

Q: Concerning the general problem of the so-called "truth serums", what are your views as to our using these techniques?

A: I consider that we are at war at the present time and we must assume that the other side is using drugs, coercion, torture, hypnosis, and all other related elements for their purposes. I think we should be willing to take chances to gain our ends. I do not believe it would be too damaging if they found we were using drugs or other methods of gaining information. Certainly, the Soviets

believe that we will try the same methods they are using and, if we don't, we would be foolish. I think it essential that your Agency be prepared to use these methods. I think you should support long-range experimentation and you certainly should be prepared to attack problems with the best possible information and techniques that you have at hand immediately.

Q: Do you have an interest in the Midzenty case or related ones and do you have any ideas as to how these things are produced?

A: Yes. If you will note in my paper (paper is attached), I have given considerable thought to the Soviet trials. While I do not believe anyone knows specifically how these things are brought about, I think they are brought about possibly by torture, duress, drugs, hypnosis, and other related methods such as exhaustion, fatigue, and dietary deficiencies. In addition, as you know, the Soviets do not hesitate to take a long time to condition their subjects. Probably you will never have to resort to this. As I see it, your main interest would be in obtaining information from unwilling people and, if possible, preventing your people from giving information if taken by the other side.

Q: You have worked with the so-called "truth serums" -- will you comment on them?

A: "Truth serums" are not serums in any sense of the word. They are drugs or chemicals and they do not always produce the truth. I believe your Agency should use this method to get information. Barring the Chicago-type third-degree, which I know you won't use, there is no way of extracting information successfully from a recalcitrant and stubborn witness. There may be other methods but I do not know of any results along these lines such as sound, shock, etc.

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in many cases, of course, parallel his answers in the attached document.

Q: What drugs or chemicals do you feel should be tried?

A: I, personally, have done almost all of my work with scopolamine as you will note from my paper, although I do have some knowledge of the barbiturate drugs. However, if I were attacking a given case at the present time and if a good anesthetist were available, I would try the barbiturate drugs, amytal or pentothal, in preference to scopolamine. I think they would be more effective. I have read Dr. James H. MATTHEWS' paper and he had amazing results. His results were better than mine since he claims 100%. I am dubious of such high results with recalcitrant subjects. I do not know of any "wonder" drugs or "new" drugs and it is my belief that you should stick to something that you know is at least partially successful before trying experimental methods that may not work.

Q: What technique have you used to obtain information?

A: I again refer you to my paper. As I mentioned above, I used scopolamine in almost all my cases which numbered about forty, and I would say the work was about 50% successful. I, personally, injected the scopolamine after making it myself. I did not use a tube but made an individual subcutaneous injection each time. (See details in attached paper and later statements.)

Q: Have you ever used hypnosis in connection with drugs?

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A: I know nothing about hypnosis personally and have never used it. In some of my early experiments with ~~hypnosis~~ I have watched him try it but he did not have any luck. At that time ~~he~~ knew nothing about hypnosis. I've heard of it being used and I think it has merit. I believe that a person under hypnotic control would give much more accurate information than a person under the influence of a drug. Certainly it should be tested and tried and used if found to be successful.

Q: Have you ever used electroshock or any other similar type instrument along these lines?

A: Definitely not, and I have no information of anyone trying electroshock in this connection. (For further information along these lines see later.)

Q: Have you ever used drugs or other techniques using interpreters?

A: No, but I lost one case that I can clearly recall for failure to have an interpreter present.

Q: Do you have or have you ever heard of any advanced technical means or instruments that could be used for obtaining information?

A: No. I believe that drugs are the best bet. You should check all the ideas, of course.

Q: Do you care to comment on the third-degree? Were you familiar with police third-degree methods in your police work as a source of information -- is it of value?

A: A third degree, if carried far enough, will produce a confession or information but, by and large, they won't be worth anything. A person will confess to anything to escape torture if carried out long enough. Our Government should not use these methods. Some better method can be found.

Q: In your toxicological and criminal experiences, have you ever run across a "wonder" drug or anyone who claims to have found a "wonder" drug for our type of use?

A: No. I doubt if they exist. I doubt if the Soviets have any "wonder" drugs. I have heard of experimental use of little-known drugs, but I am certain we are familiar with anything they have. There are lots of drugs that will produce hallucinations, mental disturbances, etc., but they will not give you accurate, useful information. Mescal, Penzadrine, opium, hashish, alcohol, and numerous others will upset the mind, but I do not believe they will serve your purpose. I have never heard of lysergic acids being used in this connection, but they will affect the mind -- whether they can be developed for your type of use, I cannot say. They are dangerous, generally speaking.

Q: Do you ever use the polygraph in your work? Do you have any special information relative this device or similar devices or any new devices along polygraph lines?

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A: No, I do not work with the Polygraph -- [redacted] with this instrument. It is very valuable if properly handled. I do not know of any new polygraph devices or any new attachments. I have heard that some work is being done along lines of this kind at [redacted]

Q: Would you name some individuals who might be helpful in our work?

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A: I believe you should consult [redacted]. He is a close friend of mine and if he could not give you direct information, he would know individuals who have done work along your lines. He is reliable.

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I think you should attempt to procure the services of [redacted]. From what I know about him, he is a young M.D. and extremely interested in your type of work. He should be valuable. I believe he is in the [redacted] but I do not know where.

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[redacted] with the [redacted] organization is familiar with [redacted] work. You should see him and you can get full details and quite possibly tape recordings of [redacted] work from [redacted]

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I believe you should see [redacted]. In my opinion, he is one of the top psychiatrists in the United States. [redacted] and has a very large private practice. He will not handle a case unless he is interested. He would know about all types of drugs, probably hypnotism, and certainly would know about electroshock or if he didn't, he would know the best man for you to see. He does know about drugs and criminal work and I am certain that if he knew of your interest he would very gladly co-operate with you.

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He has private offices [redacted] and is generally there. You should talk with him about electroshock and drug usages. [redacted] I am sure, would co-operate if he understood your problem.

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Q: Do you know [REDACTED] b6 b7C

A: I know the name only, he is at [REDACTED] and we have no close working relationship with [REDACTED]

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Q: Do you know [REDACTED]?

A: No. I have heard of him only.

Q: Would you care to give me any additional information on your use of scopolamine?

A: I will refer you to my paper (attached). As I mentioned, I believe I was 50% successful on verifiable information. In using scopolamine, you must never frame a question so that the answer suggests itself. Because of an individual's reaction under scopolamine, he is very liable to repeat a question if the question suggests the answer. Scopolamine I know shortens the memory for recent events. When your subject is under scopolamine and reaches the point of "picking things out of the air" or "dusting imaginary specks off his clothing" or "brushing imaginary bugs off himself", you have reached, in general, the proper point of questioning. In addition, at this point, I have found that the subject's mind will become blank as far as memory is concerned of the questions asked when the effects of the drug wear off.

After a considerable number of experimental uses of scopolamine, I came to the decision that best results came when I started injecting 1/100 of a grain and then followed it at intervals of about twenty minutes by 1/200 of a grain. I closely follow the pulse and watch the flushed condition of the individual's face at all times. I personally injected the scopolamine each time.

Another hint, you should always have an individual on whom you are going to use scopolamine or any other drug empty his bladder before the tests. Certainly this is true in scopolamine. Keep your questions short and frame your questions so that they will require short answers. Long questions that will require long answers may produce rambling. As a matter of fact, if a long answer is required, an individual under scopolamine will often forget what he was talking about in the first place and the answer will be useless.

Here are four items that I think you should always know when using scopolamine or probably other drugs:

- 1) Your subject should be in good physical condition, if possible.

- 2) You should always use small dosages at all times -- take your time, though it may take hours. The results may be better.
- 3) Particularly for scopolamine, you should use fresh solutions only. The powder, scopolamine hydro-bromide should not be mixed in advance with the water and I believe that when you obtain this powder, you should make certain that it is fresh and never use it if it has been made up for 24 hours. I always wrote to [redacted] and requested fresh powder from them and I always made up my solutions immediately before using them.
- 4) You should watch the individual's blood pressure carefully. I would not, under any circumstances, give scopolamine to any individual having high-blood pressure unless it did not matter.

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Q: From your point of view and understanding our problem as you now do, do you care to comment on the problem of research in general?

A: I think your Agency should support carefully controlled, long-range research in drugs, chemicals, etc. I think long-range research, properly conducted, is essential and it should cover all possible fields including chemicals, electronics, sound, etc. Particularly, I think your long-range research should very carefully re-study the older and well-known drugs such as the barbiturates. Quite often researchers overlook vital information in a search for something "new". By-products of old and known chemicals will quite often be what we are looking for. I do not feel that there is a good chance of turning up a "wonder" drug, but every effort should be made to find new and advanced methods.

As far as short-range work or immediate problems are concerned, as I have mentioned to you before, you should attack with the methods you can use best. I would use the barbiturate drugs themselves at the present time. There may be others that are useful, but I have not heard of them. It would be criminal to wreck a case trying an experiment, particularly if the information was vital.



Q: Concerning this discussion generally, have you any suggestions to make?

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A: I believe if your budget would allow it, a trip to [REDACTED] would be valuable and I believe I would start on this trip by a discussion with [REDACTED]. In this connection, I would like to mention the name of [REDACTED] as an intelligent man and I don't want to say anything against him, but I don't believe it would be profitable or advisable for you to interview him. My reasons are based on what I know of the man personally.

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The writer has studied a number of [REDACTED] published works and although of general interest, contained nothing of great value from our point of view. Exactly why [REDACTED] recommends against [REDACTED] is unknown to the writer, but it is believed that, in the opinion of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is given to considerable exaggeration and might not be adverse to publicity.

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4. The writer did not approach the subject of consultant services to [REDACTED], undoubtedly, would serve if requested, but, based on statements made in the interview [REDACTED] is at present extremely busy. The question of whether [REDACTED] would be valuable for training any of our people would appear to be answered in the negative, since he has worked mainly with scopolanine and his information has been, in the opinion of the writer, pretty well covered.

C 5. As mentioned above, throughout the long interview [redacted] was extremely co-operative and showed a great interest in the matters under discussion. He gave a number of documents to the writer which will be photostated and incorporated in our files. He permitted the writer to examine his entire library and personal files regarding this subject and appeared to be at all times very frank and honest in his manner. The writer concluded the interview by again discussing the element of secrecy in the work and is of the opinion that [redacted] can be totally trusted.

A [redacted]